

MAKE A COMPOSTER!

DIFFICULTY: EASY (REQUIRES ADULT ASSISTANCE)

What happens to a pile of old leaves outside when you add a dash of time, maybe some worms, and a healthy splash of moisture? Rich soil perfect for a garden just like Daisy's!

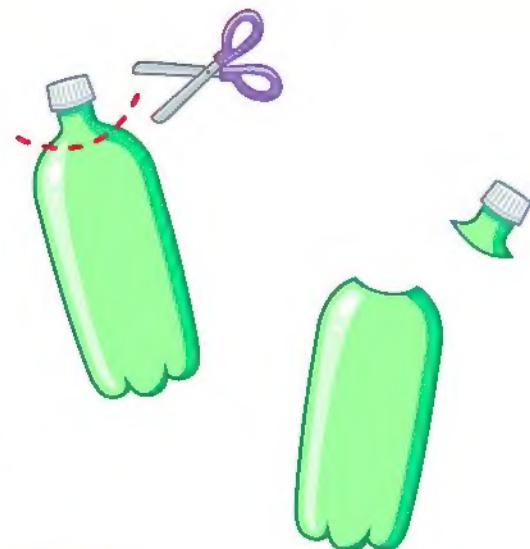
MATERIALS

- 1 empty two-liter soda bottle
- Sharp knife
- Nail
- Shredded newspaper
- Dirt (not potting soil -- use dirt from outside)
- Compost materials (such as grass clippings or vegetable scraps)
- Small handful of dead leaves
- Flat dish to hold composter
- Spray bottle with water



LET'S GET COMPOSTING!

- 1 Rinse the bottle and peel off the label.
- 2 Have a grownup cut off the top of the bottle as shown. Set the top aside.
- 3 Have the grownup use the nail to punch 8 to 10 small air and drainage holes along the sides and bottom of the bottle.
- 4 Put the bottle on the tray.



pbskids.org/naturecat



- 5 Put some dirt, shredded newspaper and old leaves inside the composter. This is your compost starter.



- 6 Use the spray bottle to wet the compost starter.
- 7 You're ready to add some stuff to your compost! (Try grass clippings, vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, or eggshells, but do not add dairy or meat.)

- 8 Turn the bottle top upside down and nest it in the open top of the bottle. It will act like a funnel for adding a little bit of water each day to keep the contents damp.



- 9 Place in a spot where sunlight can reach it.

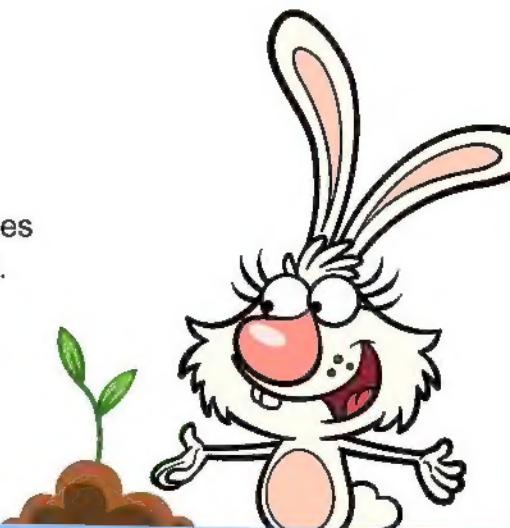
- 10 Stir every few days, keep the contents damp, and let it rot! As your compost breaks down, you can add more kitchen scraps or plant litter, as well as some more soil from outside to mix in.



- 11 Cover the top of your compost with a kitchen towel when not in use.

LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

- 1 As you check your composter each day, describe what you observe.
- 2 You may see fluffy mold growing. Some people are allergic to some types of mold, so keep your compost covered when you're not working with it.
- 3 Now take your rich, healthy soil, place it in a pot, add a seed and some water and grow your very own plant!



pbskids.org/naturecat